



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RIDLEY-THOMAS APPLAUDS AGREEMENT ALLOWING T.H.E. CLINIC TO ACCEPT \$1.6 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT

*Clinic Will Perform More Than \$1 Million in Capital
Improvements at No Cost to County*

Los Angeles—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today applauded a vote by the Board of Supervisors that will allow the community-based To Help Everyone (T.H.E.) Clinic to receive \$1.6 million in federal funding. The clinic, which receives 32,000 primary care visits per year from thousands of uninsured Los Angeles County residents, leases space in the County-owned Ruth Temple Health Center. The Board's vote extends the lease for 10 years and allows T.H.E. Clinic to accept a federal capital grant to make necessary safety improvements.

"As Los Angeles County redoubles its efforts to promote access to affordable health care, we must fully support community medical providers like T.H.E. Clinic," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "In addition, this agreement will allow the County to benefit from a significant amount of capital improvements at no cost—a major consideration in this difficult budget climate."

"T.H.E. Clinic is extremely grateful for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' leadership in ensuring that we are able to continue providing high-quality medical services to LA County residents," said Risë K. Phillips, chief executive officer of the clinic. "This signals a major collaboration between our clinic and the County as we continue to meet the health needs of the greater community."

T.H.E. Clinic has a long-standing presence in the Los Angeles County health care safety net. Since 1996, T.H.E. Clinic has worked with the County's Department of Health Services under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Program, providing health care to the County's under and uninsured population. Los Angeles County benefits greatly from its partnership with T.H.E. Clinic; the California Office of Statewide Planning and Development reports that, since 2003, T.H.E. Clinic has provided roughly \$6.7 million in uncompensated care.

In October 2010, T.H.E. Clinic, on its own initiative, applied for and was awarded a \$1,559,000 federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Capital Development grant to improve the space it currently occupies at Ruth Temple Health Center. It intends to use the funds to perform repairs deferred by the County, including the removal of asbestos, repair and installation of upgraded elevators and other safety improvements. The receipt of federal funds was conditioned upon the Board of Supervisors promptly approving a ten-year lease with T.H.E. Clinic, which was accomplished by today's vote.

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